

Application No. 10/649,537
Response to Restriction Requirement dated September 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are presently pending in the application.

The Office Action says that the Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

The Office Action alleges that there are separate species which are defined by the drawings as follows:

Group IA:	Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-13 and 15-18, is directed to a zoom lens device having a plurality of lenses; and
Group IB:	Claims 4, 10 and 14, is directed to a zoom lens device comprising a first lens unit consisting of a single negative lens element

By this response, applicants elect Group IA, claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-13 and 15-18, without traverse. Applicants note that on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 1 is indicated as generic. Applicants agree with this designation of claim 1 and therefore reserve the right to request consideration of the unelected claims should claim 1 be found allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any other fee

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required by this document, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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